

Application No.: 10/617,355

Atty Docket: MKSI 1003-1

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 15, 19, 21, 24, and 26 are currently amended. Claims 28-30 are new. Claims 1-4, 10, 14-18, 23, 26 and 27 are rejected. Claims 5-9, 11-13, 19-22, 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 22 are objected to because of informality. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 1.

Applicants request reconsideration of the objection to claim 22 which depends from claim 15. The limitation "a semiconductor wafer" in claim 22 is redundant with neither the limitation "a wafer" nor the preamble "A semiconductor manufacturing system" in claim 15. If claim 22 had either the limitation "a wafer" or "a semiconductor manufacturing process", then applicant could change "a" to "the" to reflect antecedent basis, but claim 22 has either the limitation "a wafer" or "a semiconductor manufacturing process". Thus claim 22 does not require amendment to reflect antecedent basis.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 22.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (USP 6,097,204).

Claims 1 and 15 are amended to add the language "a stage of processing of the manufacturing process". These amendments are supported at least by paragraph [0025] of the application. The new dependent claims 28 and 29 describe the stage of processing as including "a type of processing chamber." These claims are supported at least by paragraphs [0016] and [0025] of the application.

Claim 1 as amended has the following limitation not disclosed by Tanaka et al.:

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"the icon on the displaying mechanism indicating ... a stage of processing of the manufacturing process for the represented workpiece"

Tanaka et al. does not disclose the limitation above. Accordingly, Tanaka et al. does not anticipate claim 1. Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and is not anticipated for at least the same reason.

Claim 15 as amended has the following limitation not disclosed by Tanaka et al.:

"the icon on the display indicating ... a stage of processing of the manufacturing process for the represented workpiece"

Tanaka et al. does not disclose the limitation above. Accordingly, Tanaka et al. does not anticipate claim 15.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 14, and 15.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 2-4, 16-18, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (USP 6,097,204) in view of Laitinen-Vellonen (USP 6,792,388).

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Claim 1 as amended has the following limitation not disclosed by the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen:

"the icon on the displaying mechanism indicating ... a stage of processing of the manufacturing process for the represented workpiece"

The combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen does not disclose the limitation above. Accordingly, the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are not obvious for at least the same reason.

Claims 16-18 depend from claim 15. Claim 15 as amended has the following limitation not disclosed by the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen:

"the icon on the display indicating ... a stage of processing of the manufacturing process for the represented workpiece"

The combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen does not disclose the limitation above. Accordingly, the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 15. Claims 16-18

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depend from claim 15 and are not obvious for at least the same reason.

Claim 26 is amended to add the language "a stage of processing of the manufacturing process". This amendment is supported at least by paragraph [0025] of the application. The new dependent claim 30 describes the stage of processing as including "a type of processing chamber." This claim is supported at least by paragraphs [0016] and [0025] of the application.

Claim 26 as amended has the following limitation not disclosed by the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen:

"position the icon on the display in an area corresponding to ... a stage of processing of the represented workpiece"

The combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen does not disclose the limitation above. Accordingly, the combination of Tanaka et al. with Laitinen-Vellonen fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 26. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and is not obvious for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2-4, 16-18, 26 and 27.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-9, 11-13, 19-22, 24 and 25 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability of these claims.

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CONCLUSION

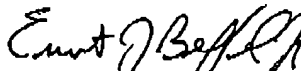
Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and thereby solicit acceptance of the claims, in light of these amendments.

The undersigned can ordinarily be reached at his office at (650) 712-0340.

Respectfully submitted,

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